

On October 30, 1947, the club received a pleasant surprise. A local ballroom, operated by the three Decker brothers of Green Bay, was provided free of charge as a community service gesture. No need saying that the invitation was accepted with considerable rejoicing on the part of the club members and the Recreation Dept. This ballroom, the Riverside, has a floor measuring 70 by 130 feet and can be added another 50 feet when the crowd is at the overflow point.



Mr. Krieser, sitting at the keyboard of the new piano and the dancers behind the piano are the nucleus of the club. Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. William Baenen, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Albers, Mrs. John Gardner and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kosnar.

ILLINOIS FOLK LORE SOCIETY

MARY AGNES STARR

Last December an enthusiastic group of people interested in preserving the folk lore of Illinois, gathered at the home of Mrs. Edith Krappe in Carbondale, Ill. As a result of that historic meeting the Illinois Folklore Society was born! Although the state of Illinois has a wealth of folk lore, up to this meeting, there had not been any concerted effort in collecting and organizing materials from various sources. There had been many individual contributions however, not the least of which was the work of Dr. David S. McIntosh of Southern Illinois University. A number of his research projects on Singing Games and Folk Dances have been recorded in book form, "Southern Illinois Singing Games and Songs", "Singing Games and Folk Dances", "Singing Games and Folk Songs from Southern Illinois" (The later published by Co-op Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio.) In this work he was assisted by John W. Allen, Dr. Jesse Harris and his enthusiastic partner, his wife, all of whom are charter members of the folk lore society. In October of 1947, the first copy of the "Illinois Folk-lore magazine", by Grace with interesting legends, stories, songs as well as an excellent article "Egypt, A Folk-lore Frontier", by Grace Partridge Smith of Washington, D.C. The Folk-lore Society plans to hold four regular meetings each year and it is also planning to issue the folk-lore magazine on a quarterly basis. Officers of the Society are:

President John W. Allen
Vice President David S. McIntosh
Secretary-Treasurer Tina M. Goodwin
Editor Jesse W. Harris

Directors of the Society are:

David S. McIntosh, Mae Dorsey, Jesse W. Harris, Dr. Ben Fox of Carbondale, and Mary Agnes Starr of Cairo.

Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in folk lore. Dues are \$1.00 per year. Applications for membership may be sent to Miss Tina Goodwin, 409 West Monroe Street, Carbondale, Illinois.

POLISH KRAKOWIAK CONTEST

On December 7th the Polish Falcon Societies (Sokol) sponsored a contest in which various Polish folk dance groups competed for the honor of "best Krakowiak dancers". The Krakowiak is the national dance of Southern Poland and it is limitless in variety of patterns and figures. The dances were judged according to "Polish Spirit", difficulty of pattern, execution of steps, costuming, variety of choreography and on their alternate dance. Lovers of the Polish dance would have considered themselves as being in heaven while witnessing that contest. All dance groups performed excellently and the costuming was colorful. The following groups participated: Sokolstwo (Falcons), Mało Polanie, Związek Polek, Gmina 75 ZNP, Zjednoczenia and a Sokol group from Pittsburgh. (All others were Chicago groups.) All Krakowiaks were done perfectly. Both Sokol groups, tho, seemed to combine Mazur steps to polka time to make their routines more difficult. As alternate dances the Chicago Sokols did a gorgeous Kujawiak in the regional Lowice costumes. Mało Polanie did the Polish version of the Węgierka, the Związek Polek did Hucuł Kołomejka, an intriguing dance but they fell short when it came to do the floor steps which require agility and continued performance. The ZNP group did a not too exciting Mazur and the Zjednoczenia danced the trojak Zasiali Górale which is not a contest type of a dance even tho they performed it well. The Pittsburgh group performed excellently a medley of short Polish folk dances from the Śląsk (Silesia) district. Because of their slowness and grace they somehow did not appeal to the public who deemed the dances as lacking "Polish Spirit". Even a Pole can be a "foreigner" among Poles. The Chicago Sokols did for their alternate a composed dance to Na Zielny Łące containing plenty Polish spirit as the Poles know it to be. The winners were: 1) The Chicago Sokols, 2) Związek Polek, 3) Zjednoczenia and 4) Mało Polanie. The judges were: Grace Zwiefka, Helen Zwiefka, Charlotte Chen and Vyts Beliajus. A sumptuous Smorgasbord followed the contest.

AM ISRAEL KHAY

To catch the true spirit of Palestinian dancing one should visit a function sponsored by the college of Jewish Studies, Particularly after one of their Melaveh Malkah celebrations when the "younger generation" goes down to the basement of the college (72 E. 11th) and start going through the paces of the dance. For hours and on circles spin and swing going from one Horra into another to the accompaniment of their own singing in Hebrew. One becomes amazed wondering where they find their stamina and energy to withstand such terrific exertion. If they can last through an evening of Horras with no ill effect they will certainly be able to protect Palestine's independence too, with ease.

Student:- "How long can a man live without a brain?"
Professor:- "Wait and see!"

CONCERT REVIEWS

LYRA

ST. CASIMIR'S "MARTHA"

St. Casimir Academy presented the opera "Martha", by Flotow during the Thanksgiving week. The all-girl cast was well chosen, however we feel that the male principals of the opera should have been sung by males. It would have added a note of authenticity to the performances, but all who were connected with the production should be heartily congratulated. It was well staged and well sung. Not only was the solo and chorus work good, but the girls played their parts well.

The Academy Orchestra under the direction of Sr. Bernarda SCS, accompanied the soloists and chorus. Knowing that most of the players are beginners, one can make allowances, but knowing the score of the opera too, it was a difficult task to perform.

BIRUTĖ'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

On December 7, the Birutė Chorus held their autumn program at the Lithuanian Auditorium. Under the direction of John Byanskas, the choir performed two groups of songs. This choir is one of the better Lithuanian choirs of Chicago, and proved it by its performance.

Emily Taranda sang a group of songs by S. Šimkus. Her voice has possibilities and she does have a pleasing tone. She does, however, have a tendency of becoming sharp which could have merely been a case of nerves.

The Ateitis Folk Dance group performed two groups of folk dances and were well received by the audience. Their dances are so lively and the group seems to enjoy dancing. They always bring a bit of Lithuania wherever they perform.

Algerd Brazil sang as usual in a very excellent manner. Each time one hears him sing, there seems to be more power and grandeur.

Mrs. Lulu Raben-Mitchell was the violin soloist for the afternoon. Her violin seemed to speak, there was good interpretation, and clear lucid tone.

The Birutė choir is to be congratulated for having such an enjoyable program, and at the same time, such a varied one.

BALF PROGRAM BY FORMER DP'S

A program sponsored for the United Lithuanian Relief Fund (BALF) held at the Darius-Girėnas Legion Hall on November 30. A group of refugees presented a play about life in a displaced persons camp in Germany. The play was written by V. Šimaitis and directed by Elena Petrokas. It was touching and very real. This play was so human and well acted that for the duration of the play, the audience was living in that tiny dingy room with the DP family.

One could tell that the people who were only acting their lines had lived through these experiences just a short time ago. Through the medium of the play, the actors brought the pitiful state of DP life closer to Chicago, and made every one present in the audience feel that the time for help, spiritual and physical, is now.

Due to an accident, the featured refugee soloist was unable to appear. Mrs. Ona Pieza, accompanied by Zita Šimutis graciously consented to substitute. She sang a group of three songs and as always added a note of perfection to the program. Her singing of "Mano Gimtinė" was particularly suited to this program.

Mr. R. Skipitis led the audience in community singing and the audience entered into the spirit of things and sang lustily.

K of L COUNCIL 90, KEARNY, N. J.

Council 90 of the Knight of Lithuania, celebrated recently the 30th anniversary of existence. It was a three day celebration which included a party, dance, group Holy Communion and a dinner-dance at which affair were present the mayors of Harrison and Kearny (N.J.). Miss Phyllis Grendal came down from Boston to this event.

This Council also sponsors Lithuanian classes. Fra Karal of St. Michael's parish in Bayonne, N.J., has been good enough to devote an evening each week to instruct. Fra. Karal is a refugee and was in Nazi and Russian prisons for a number of years.

The N.Y.-N.J. District of the K of L has a choral group under the direction of a talented member, Miss Marie Slekaitis. The choir had the honor of performing at the Women's International Exposition at the 34th St. Armory of New York.

KEISTUTIS CHORUS MELODIES

"Polka Time!" Polkas, Polkas and more Polkas! everybody loves a Polka! Who doesn't?

Therefore, Keistutis Chorus decided to give everybody a treat by running a dance known now to all as "Polka Time", on Saturday, January 31, 1948, at Hollywood Inn, 2417 West 43rd St.

Keistutis Chorus consists of young men and ladies interested in music, drama, and activity consisting of lots of fun. Rehearsals are held every Thursday at 8:00, at Hollywood Inn. They are now singing under the direction of Alice Stephens, noted Lithuanian directress.

Walter Klemka, Peter Daužvardis and John Buracas, members of the committee, are working hard on the plans for the success of the dance and invite all interested in having a good time to remember that date and come to "Polka Time". Tickets are only 60 cents and may be purchased from the Keistutis members or at the door.

"MELSVAKIUTE" (The Blue Eyed Gal)

BEG PARDON, KEISTUTIS

In last month's review the program accredited to the Keistutis Loan Ass'n. was really sponsored by the Keistutis Benefit Club. A third organization, the Keistutis Choir, Participated. No wonder we got all the Keistutis' mixed up. Please pardon us. The original Keistutis was a benevolent and a great ruler of Lithuania's past. His dashing romance with Birutė left an everlasting mark on the Lithuanian imagination. They are the parents even of the more remarkable Vytautas during whose reign Lithuania reached her zenith of greatness in Eastern Europe. Hence the popularity of these names.

FINNY'S FUNNIES

"Boy, did my gal hint last night!"

"How?"

"When the waiter asked how she'd like her rice, she said, 'Thrown at me.'"

Doctor:- Your husband must have it perfectly quiet. Here is a sleeping powder."

Wife:- "When do I give it to him?"

Doctor:- "You don't give it to him. Take it yourself."

Employer to beautiful blonde who has just filled out an application blank for a job:

"Miss Jones, under 'Experience' could you be a little more specific than just 'Oh Boy!'"